

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
JOHN SIDNEY,

Plaintiff,

-v.-

CITY OF NEW YORK, et al.,

Defendants.
-----X

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DATE FILED: 10/7/04

ORDER SCHEDULING
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

04 Civ. 4670 (SAS) (GWG)

GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN, UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

A settlement conference in this matter is scheduled for December 20, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 219, United States Courthouse, 40 Centre Street, New York, New York. The parties should be sure to arrive a few minutes early so that the conference may begin promptly.

The Court's Standing Order In Cases Referred for Settlement is enclosed and is incorporated herein by reference.

The parties are directed to pay particular attention to paragraph 6 of the enclosed Standing Order, which sets forth who must appear at the conference on behalf of a corporate or union client. Attorneys are responsible for ensuring that the appropriate client appears. The parties should also note that paragraph 3 of the Standing Order requires certain written submissions, which must be received by the Court and all other parties no later than three business days before the conference: that is, December 15, 2004.

Under paragraph 8 of the Standing Order, counsel are required to seek a change in the date of the conference if (1) an adjournment would permit necessary discovery or exchange of information that would make the conference more fruitful or (2) a client who would otherwise participate by telephone would be available to attend the conference were it held on another date.


The parties should follow the instructions in paragraph 8 to seek any change in date.

Each counsel must promptly confirm that all other attorneys on the case have received a copy of this Order along with the attached Standing Order. If a party is aware of an attorney not listed below whose client should be present at the conference, that party should contact Deputy Clerk Sylvia Gonzalez immediately at (212) 805-4260.

No later than 10 business days prior to the conference, plaintiff (or any other party with a claim) shall communicate to any opposing parties a settlement demand, unless such a demand has already been made. The opposing party shall respond to any demand with a counteroffer no later than 5 business days thereafter.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 7, 2004
New York, New York



GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN
United States Magistrate Judge

Copies mailed to:

Tracie A. Sundack
7 South Broadway, Suite 300
White Plains, NY 10601

Hillary Ann Frommer
Assistant Corporation Counsel
100 Church Street
New York, NY 10007

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
40 FOLEY SQUARE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007-1581

GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**Standing Order In Cases Referred for Settlement
to Magistrate Judge Gabriel W. Gorenstein**

1. Settlement conferences form no part of the record. All communications made as part of the conference process are strictly confidential and may not be used for any purpose.
2. Judge Gorenstein will function as a mediator, attempting to help the parties reach agreement on terms of settlement. This process requires that counsel and their clients be both prepared for the conference and candid with the Court. The Court expects to hold only one settlement conference.
3. **No later than three business days before the conference**, the Court and opposing counsel must be in receipt of a letter from counsel for each party marked prominently “CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL FOR USE ONLY AT SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE,” setting forth succinctly (in not more than 7 pages) the following: (1) A discussion of all relevant facts of the case and the relevant applicable law, with an emphasis on the issues most pertinent to settlement -- including a discussion of liability and, if appropriate, of damages in the event liability were established. If injunctive relief is sought in addition to or instead of money damages, the parties should set forth their positions as to the provision of such relief. (2) The history of settlement negotiations, if any, including any prior offers or demands. This letter must also be received by all of the other parties that will be attending the conference no later than three business days before the settlement conference. These letters are to be used solely for the purpose of this settlement conference. They may not be used by the parties for any other purpose, either in this litigation or elsewhere.

On or before the due date of this submission, the parties must also submit to the Court the “Acknowledgment Form” that appears following this Standing Order. As is true for the above-described letter, the Acknowledgment Form must also be served on all other parties that will be attending the conference. Both of the required submissions may be sent to the Court via facsimile at (212) 805-4268, provided that the facsimile transmission (including any exhibits) does not exceed 15 pages. If sent by fax, do not also send a hard copy.

4. At the settlement conference, all counsel will be expected to make a brief presentation (usually 10-15 minutes) in the presence of each other and the parties summarizing the issues of fact and law they regard as dispositive and any other matters they regard as material to settlement. The presentation should be straightforward and directed toward persuading the opposing party, not the Court. Charts or other visual aids may be used if they would present information more efficiently to the opposing party. Following the presentations, typically the Court will allow counsel to respond to points made by opposing counsel and, if appropriate, to pose constructive questions to their adversary. Clients are encouraged to speak as well.
5. Following the presentations, the Court will meet separately with each side in private. In these meetings, the parties and their counsel will be expected to reveal their clients’ ultimate position on settlement, the amount of attorneys’ fees and expenses incurred to date, and an estimate of the cost of litigating the case to judgment, including the cost of any appeal.

6. The presence in person of each party (that is, the client), in addition to the party's lawyer, is essential to the settlement process. In particular, it is important that clients hear their adversary's presentation and be available to speak with the Court outside the presence of their adversary. For these reasons, clients must attend the settlement conference. However, attendance by telephone is permitted if the client lives and works more than 100 miles from the Courthouse AND it would be a great hardship for the client to attend a conference held on any date. Where a client attends by telephone, the client should be available for at least a three-hour period and should be available no later than five minutes before the starting time of the conference. Corporate parties and labor unions must send to the conference at least one person with decision-making authority as to settlement (that is, a person with responsibility for determining the amount of any settlement, who has no limitations with respect to his or her authority to settle, and who has the power to change the party's settlement posture during the course of the conference). Where an insurance company has any role in approving a settlement, a knowledgeable representative of the carrier must attend in addition to the insured. Where a government agency is a party, the attorney must obtain settlement authority in advance of the conference and should be accompanied by a knowledgeable representative of the agency, regardless of whether that person has ultimate authority to approve any settlement. In cases where the Comptroller of the City of New York has authority over settlement, the Assistant Corporation Counsel must make arrangements in advance of the conference for a representative of the Comptroller either to attend the conference or to be available by telephone.

Note: In the event two or more parties indicate their intent to appear by telephone, the technical limitations of the telephone system may prevent either or both of the parties from so attending.

7. If a party fails to attend the settlement conference with all of the required persons (attorney, plus the client (which, for a corporate or union party, means a decision-making employee of the client as described in paragraph 6, above), plus a decision-making representative from the insurance carrier, if applicable), that party may be required to reimburse all of the other parties for their time and travel expenses, and/or may face other sanctions. Note that, if needed by a client, each party must supply its own interpreter (who need not have any special certification).
8. A party may make an application to adjourn or advance the date of the settlement conference without providing cause as long as the application for a change in date is made at least one week prior to the scheduled conference date. Otherwise, counsel should set forth the reasons for seeking the change in date and must make the application as soon as counsel becomes aware of the need for the change. In addition, the parties are required to seek a change in date if (1) an adjournment would permit necessary discovery or exchange of information that would make the conference more fruitful, or (2) a client who would otherwise participate by telephone would be available to attend the conference were it held on another date. To seek a change in date, the party should first contact the Deputy Clerk, Sylvia Gonzalez, at (212) 805-4260 to determine an alternative available date and time. Counsel should thereupon consult with all other counsel as to their (and their clients' and insurers') availability on such date. The party must thereafter make a written application to the Court by letter (which may be sent by facsimile at (212) 805-4268) requesting the new date and time and indicating that it is agreed to by all parties. The conference date is not changed unless counsel are thereafter informed by the Deputy Clerk that the written application has been granted.
9. The scheduling of a settlement conference has no effect on any deadlines or other pending obligations in the case.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

Complete this form (please print or type) or its equivalent, sign it, and send it (for receipt no later than three business days prior to the conference) to all other attorneys who will be attending the conference AND to:

Hon. Gabriel W. Gorenstein
United States Magistrate Judge
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007-1581
[Facsimile Telecopier Number: (212) 805-4268]

Name of Case: Sidney v. City of New York
Docket Number: 04 Civ. 4670 (SAS) (GWG)

I acknowledge that my client and I must attend a settlement conference on December 20, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 219, United States Courthouse, 40 Centre Street, New York, New York.

1. I am attorney for _____
[state name of party/also state whether party is plaintiff or defendant].

(For corporate or other non-individual clients): The name of the representative of my client who will attend the conference is: _____. The title of this representative is: _____.

2. CHECK ONE LINE BELOW:

- a. _____ The above-named individual will attend in person.
- b. _____ The above-named individual will attend by telephone because I certify that (1) such individual lives and works more than 100 miles from New York City (or, if my client is not an individual, no decision-making representative of my client lives or works within 100 miles of New York City), and (2) it would be a great hardship for this individual to attend a settlement conference on this or any other date. At the conference, I will have a telephone number at which this individual can be reached for the duration of the conference.

3. I acknowledge receiving a copy of the two-page document entitled "Standing Order In Cases Referred for Settlement to Magistrate Judge Gabriel W. Gorenstein." I understand that paragraph 3 requires me to submit a confidential letter to be received by the Court and by opposing counsel at least three business days before the conference. I certify that the person attending the conference is a person with decision-making authority as to settlement (that is, a person with responsibility for determining the amount of any settlement, who has no limitations with respect to his or her authority to settle, and who has the power to change the party's settlement posture during the course of the conference).

[signature of attorney]

Attorney's Name: _____

Attorney for: _____